

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:	)	
	)	<b>Group Art Unit:</b> To Be Assigned
Qualthrough et al.	)	
	)	<b>Examiner:</b> To Be Assigned
<b>Serial No.:</b> Unassigned	)	
	)	
<b>Filed:</b> Herewith	)	
	)	
<b>For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR</b>	)	
<b>ARTICLE INSPECTION</b>	)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the Applicant's duty under 37 CFR § 1.56, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner.

36183

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
(37 CFR §1.8 a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

3/12/04  
Date of Delivery

Kelley O'Reilly  
Name of Person Delivering Paper

K. O'Reilly  
Signature of Person Delivering Paper

**REFERENCES**

- ☒ The references are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a and copies are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.
- ☐ Copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a have already been submitted in corresponding Patent Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore, copies of the same are not enclosed.

The items identified in this Information Disclosure Statement may or may not be “material” pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and the submission thereof by Applicants shall not be construed as an admission that any such patent, publication or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (37 CFR § 1.97(h)), or even qualifies as “prior art” 35 USC § 102 with respect to this invention unless specifically designated by Applicants as such.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information, as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56, exists.

**DISCLOSURE**

☒ The attached IDS is being filed in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98. This IDS is believed to be timely in that it is being submitted under 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(3), that is before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, no petition or fee is required. However, if the undersigned representative of Applicants is in error in this regard, then the Examiner is requested to consider this IDS as filed under § 1.97(c)

☐ The attached Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97(c) and 1.98. This IDS is being filed after an action on the merits but before a Final Action under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311. In the event that this IDS is not received before a Final Action under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, the Applicant respectfully requests the filing of these papers to be considered a petition requesting consideration of this IDS pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(d).

☐ The attached Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d) and 1.98. This IDS is being filed after receipt of a final action but before receipt of a Notice of Allowance Under § 1.311.

☐ I certify that pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1), each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

☐ I certify that pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2), no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the best of my knowledge, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

**PAYMENT METHOD**

- ☐ Enclosed is a check to cover the fee pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.17(p).
- ☒ The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fee due with this filing to our Deposit Account No. **50-2613**.
- ☒ The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee(s) required by this paper to our Deposit Account No. **50-2613**.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER

Dated: March 12, 2004

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	Unassigned
				Filing Date	Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Qualthrough et al.
				Group Art Unit	To Be Assigned
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	39856.00002.CON1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	4,825,068		Suzuki et al.	04-25-1989	
	AB	5,917,926		Leverett	02-28-1997	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
	AC	JP	2001-099782	A	Iseki & Co. LTD	04-13-2001	
	AD	JP	11-051620	A	Tateyama R & D	02-26-1999	
	AE	NL	1013375	C2	FPS Food Processing Systems	04-24-2001	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation is not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.